

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

US-MEXICO BORDER HEALTH COMMISSION

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
WORKGROUP MEETING

Brownsville, Texas

March 16-17, 2006



Photo: National Geography 1997

- ✓ **Close to 13 million inhabitants**
- ✓ **Dangerous territory, heavily fortified and certainly the busiest border**
 - ✓ **400 million legal border north-bound crossings annually (1998)**
 - ✓ **Terrorism and significant public health threats**

***If the U.S.-Mexico Border
were a separate state, it
would rank...***

- ✓ Last in access to health care;
- ✓ Second in death rates due to hepatitis;
- ✓ Third in deaths related to diabetes;
- ✓ First in the number of cases of TB;
- ✓ First in school children living in poverty; and
- ✓ Last in per capita income.

USMBHC

US Congress passed Public **Law 103-400** which authorized the US President to enter into an agreement with Mexico to establish this commission which was created **in July of 2000**. The law refers to the **assisting in the coordination and implementation of efforts of public and private entities to prevent and resolve health problems and potential health problems.**

USMBHC

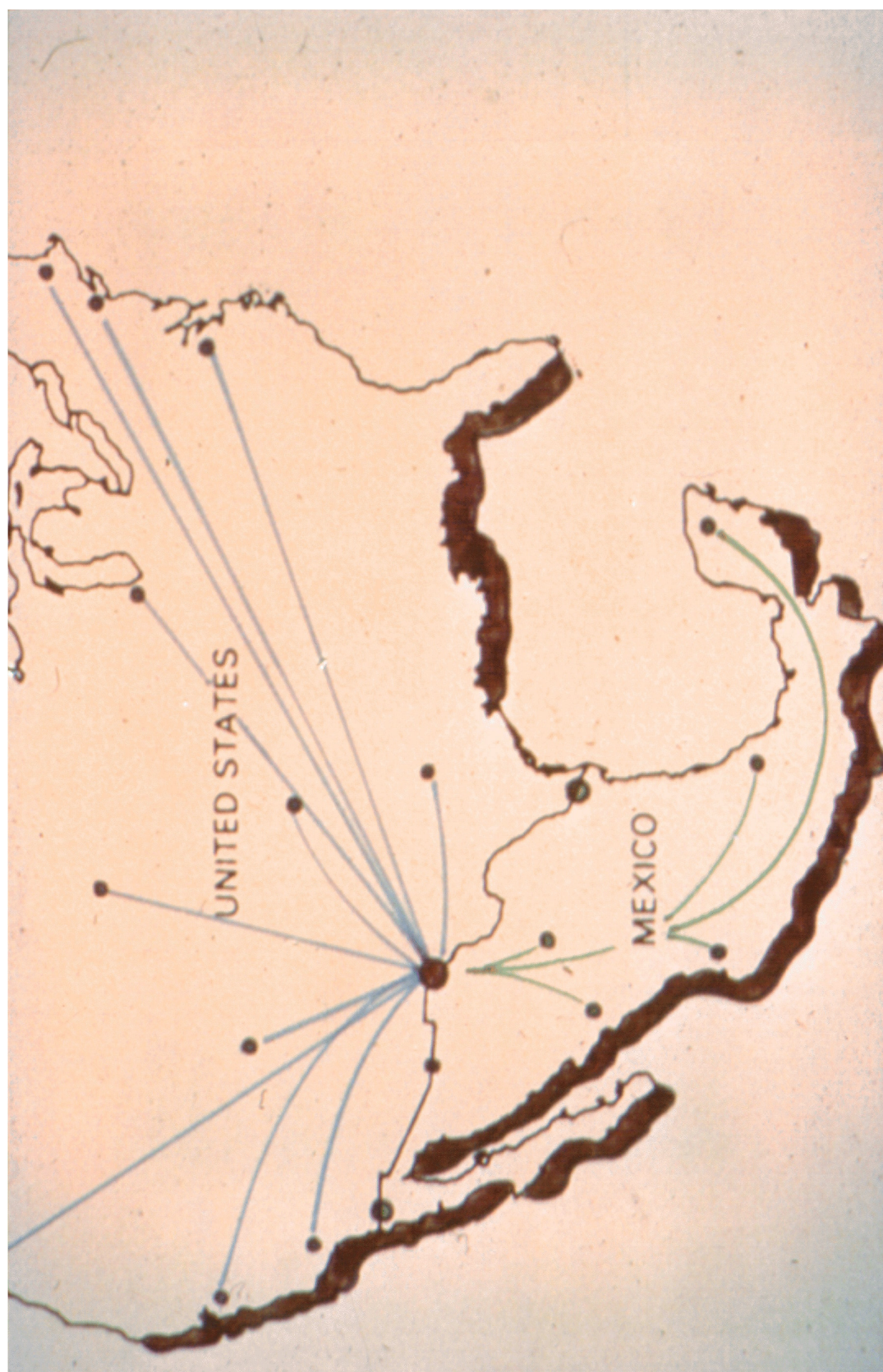


Mission

“To provide international leadership to optimize health and quality of life along the United States - Mexico border.”

Composition and Structure

- ✓ Two sovereign nations
- ✓ Ten border states
- ✓ 44 counties and 80 municipalities
- ✓ 14 pairs of sister cities
- ✓ Public International organization
- ✓ 26 Commission Members, two sections and three standing committees
- ✓ Inter Agency Border Action Team



The “C” Words from Dr. Eduardo Sanchez

- Commitment – people & govts
- Cooperation – USMBHC is model
- Collaboration – USMBHC is a facilitator of entitites
- Co-responsibility – We take responsibility for our actions

Completion

- 2010 Health Border Goals
- TB Card Pilot Project
- Models of Excellence
- Ventanilla de Salud
- EWIDS
- Many other programs and projects published in our annual report

USMBHC Wash DC 2005

Recent



Recent

- Mary Lou Valdez (Sec Leavitts delegate)
 - Conference Call on Lead in candy
 - Border State Health Officers
 - Convened a meeting in El Paso
 - FDA, CDC, Consumer Product Safety Commission
 - Results to be shared when finalized

Recent

- Enhancements of Commission Website
 - Roster of Organizations active in Border Health
 - Comprehensive Calender
 - Links to Border Health Research
 - Active Border News
 - ? Collaborate with US Mex Border Binational Health eGroup

Recent

- Development of US Mexican Information Platform
 - Further develop role of a reliable focal point of information and statistics.
 - When operational it will serve as a user friendly on line database.

Healthy Border 2010 Agenda

- ✓ Access to Care
- ✓ Cancer
- ✓ Diabetes
- ✓ Environmental Health
- ✓ HIV/AIDS
- ✓ Immunization
- ✓ Infectious Diseases
- ✓ Tuberculosis
- ✓ Injury Prevention
- ✓ Maternal, Infant and Child Health
- ✓ Mental Health
- ✓ Oral Health
- ✓ Respiratory Diseases
- ✓ Terrorism Preparedness *

* *Developmental theme*

BINATIONAL AGENDA

Healthy Border 2010 Program

- 20 health objectives, 11 focus areas
- Environmental Health
 - Improve households access to sewage disposal
 - Reduce hospital admissions for acute pesticide poisoning

- Despite Challenges
- There are opportunities which continue to benefit from committed people, who cooperate collaborate and take responsibility.
- Thank you.





“Our challenge is to have a border, a world of order, characterized by peace and prosperity in the midst of diversity.”